

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for printing a document comprising:

using a computer, performing the following steps:

reading and analyzing only a ~~metadata~~ plurality of data hidden in each of a plurality of document pages to be printed, each of the plurality of data describing a printable data for a document, to determine a required printer type, wherein the required printer type comprises a specific printer, a color printer, and a black/white printer;

responsive only to determining the required printer type, separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page, wherein all of the print jobs based on the specific printer are first allocated together, then all unallocated print jobs based on the color printer are separately allocated together, and then all remaining unallocated print jobs are allocated together and based on the black/white printer;

placing each of the plurality of document pages into an appropriate holding queue for an appropriate printer for each of the allocated print jobs;

selecting the appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile; and wherein the print farm profile includes data regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for the appropriate printer, and a printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the appropriate printer; and

printing the plurality of print jobs on a plurality of appropriate printers.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responsive to printing the plurality of print jobs on the plurality of appropriate printers,
automatically reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific printer holding queue; and
wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is the specific printer.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing letterhead.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue; and
wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white printer holding queue; and
wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white printer.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and
responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job exceeds the printer page threshold, separating print job into a plurality of print jobs.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:
calculating the time until the printers are available; and
sending the print job to the first available printer.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:
calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and
sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time required to print the print job.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:
ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available; and
assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:
ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to print; and
assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
printing a control page with each print job; and
wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.
- 14-44. (Canceled)
45. (New) An apparatus for printing a document comprising:
a computer connected to a memory and to a print farm;
a plurality of instructions in the memory adapted to cause the computer to perform steps comprising:
reading and analyzing only a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer type, wherein the required printer type comprises a specific printer, a color printer, and a black/white printer;
responsive only to determining the required printer type, separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page, wherein all of the print jobs based on the specific printer are first allocated together, then all unallocated print jobs based on the color printer are separately allocated

together, and then all remaining unallocated print jobs are allocated together and based on the black/white printer;

placing each of the plurality of document pages into an appropriate holding queue for an appropriate printer for each of the allocated print jobs;

selecting the appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile; and wherein the print farm profile includes data regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for the appropriate printer, and a printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the appropriate printer; and

printing the plurality of print jobs on a plurality of appropriate printers.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 45 further comprising:

responsive to printing the plurality of print jobs on the plurality of appropriate printers, automatically reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

47. (New) A computer program product for printing a document comprising:

a computer readable medium containing a plurality of instructions adapted to cause a computer to perform steps comprising:

reading and analyzing only a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer type, wherein the required printer type comprises a specific printer, a color printer, and a black/white printer;

responsive only to determining the required printer type, separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page, wherein all of the print jobs based on the specific printer are first allocated together, then all unallocated print jobs based on the color printer are separately allocated together, and then all remaining unallocated print jobs are allocated together and based on the black/white printer;

placing each of the plurality of document pages into an appropriate holding queue for an appropriate printer for each of the allocated print jobs;

selecting the appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile; and wherein the print farm profile

includes data regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for the appropriate printer, and a printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the appropriate printer; and

printing the plurality of print jobs on a plurality of appropriate printers.

48. (New) The computer program product of claim 47 further comprising:

responsive to printing the plurality of print jobs on the plurality of appropriate printers, automatically reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.